(a) whether KVIC proposes to collaborate with the big industrial houses active in the organized retail market to strengthen the rural area economically and financially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the industrial houses selected so far for the purpose; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of these industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Raising of price of sliver cotton by KVIC

3350. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the problems facing the Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) the reasons why Khadi and Village Industries Commission has raised the price of cotton sliver supplied to the khadi production centres from their sliver plants; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to allow subsidy for the cotton used by Khadi sector and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Some of the challenges in the Khadi and village industries are ensuring availability of quality raw materials, adequate credit and professional expertise in marketing. There are six Central Sliver Plants managed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the administrative control of this Ministry. KVIC has constituted an Advisory Committee for each Central Sliver Plant (CSP) for reviewing various issues like requirement of working capital, quality of sliver/roving, pricing of sliver/roving, sales promotion, etc. The main reason for increase in price of cotton slivers from these CSPs is the escalation in prices of raw material. The costing of sliver / roving is worked out on 'no profit no loss' basis after taking into account the cost of raw material, processing costs, consumption of power, salary and wages of the staff and workers etc. As the price of the sliver /roving is calculated on 'no profit no loss' basis at present, there is no plan for reducing the price of cotton sliver.

(c) No, Sir.

Small and medium enterprises in Tamil Nadu

3351. S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of micro, small and medium enterprises in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for development of MSMEs in the State during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As per the Quick Results of Fourth All India Census of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the reference year of 2006-07, the number of micro, small and medium enterprises both registered and unregistered existing in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.03.2007 (latest available) was estimated to be 25,95,127.

(b) and (c) To facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs, in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu, the Government announced a policy package for stepping up credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on 10th August, 2005 which envisages public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to SME sector. The Government has also announced in February, 2007 a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure, etc. Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, which has since corne into force from 2nd October, 2006. The Government is also implementing various schemes/programmes relating to credit, inftastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/ skill development, etc., for assisting the MSME sector in meeting the challenges. Some of the major schemes/ programmes being implemented are Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

The number of enterprises in the sector and employment generated has increased from 787965 and 2018137 in 2001-02 to 2595127 and 6280872 in 2006-07 (latest available) respectively in the State of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, gross output in registered units has gone up from Rs.13,943 crore in 2001-02 to Rs.70546 crore in 2006-07.

Development of Surat-Hazira rail line

3352. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to slate:

(a) whether the review committee set up by Government of Gujarat has submitted its report for the development work of Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) by when the work would be started on this line by the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.?